

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 01043 201133Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 201107Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4533

S E C R E T TOKYO 1043

NODIS

E.O.11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: TSPA, JA

SUBJECT: REENTRY OF SOVIET SATELLITE, COSMOS 954

REF: (A) STATE 13681; (B) TOKYO 935 (C) STATE 15714

(D) STATE 15715

1. ON INSTRUCTIONS OF AMBASSADOR, SCICOUNS DELIVERED INFO PROVIDED REFTELS (C) AND (D) TO WATANABE OF FIRST NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION, MOFA, WHO HAD BEEN PRESENT AT YESTERDAY'S MEETING WITH VICE MINISTER AND WHO IS COORDINATING MOFA ACTION.

2. WATANABE CONFIRMED VERBALLY THAT EMBASSY'S MESSAGE OF PREVIOUS DAY HAD BEEN OF GREAT CONCERN TO VICE MINISTER ARITA. ARITA HAS INFORMED PRIME MINISTER AND CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY. EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW HAVE NOT BEEN INFORMED. MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY 1/21, TO DECIDE WHO ELSE SHOULD BE NOTIFIED.

3. WATANABE ASKED THAT USG GIVE IMMEDIATE THOUGHT TO PREPARING AN AGREED STATEMENT TO BE USED BY COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE RECEIVED INFO ON SATELLITE CONDITION FROM USG IN EVENT THAT IMPACT ON OR BURN-UP OVER ANY OF THESE COUNTRIES DOES OCCUR. HE SUGGESTS STATEMENT ALONG LINE

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THAT GOVERNMENT OF () WAS INFORMED IN ADVANCE BY USG (A) OF IMPENDING REENTRY OF SATELLITE, (B) THAT SATELLITE CONTAINED NUCLEAR POWER SUPPLY, AND (C) THAT SATELLITE WAS OF SOVIET ORIGIN: GOVERNMENT OF () WAS ABLE TO TAKE APPROPRIATE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AS RESULT OF ADVANCE INFORMATION FROM USG.

4. HE ALSO ASKED EMBOFF IF USG HAD ANY INTENTION OF ASKING COUNTRIES FOR PERMISSION TO RECOVER FRAGMENTS IF LAND IMPACT OCCURS. EMBOFF STATED THAT HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS IN THIS RESPECT AND WOULD REFER INQUIRY TO WASHINGTON. WATANABE COMMENTED THAT HE HOPED THAT USG WOULD NOT TAKE THIS POSITION, WHICH COULD PRESENT POLITICAL PROBLEMS FOR JAPAN.

5. AGAIN WATANABE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ALL PERTINENT INFO BE PROVIDED GOJ AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, NOTING THAT WITHIN A DAY IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO BRING IN TECHNICAL PEOPLE FOR ADVICE. HE SPECIFICALLY ASKED IF USG WOULD BE IN POSITION TO FURNISH COSMOS 954 ORBITAL TRAJECTORY INFORMATION SO THAT JAPANESE TRACKING STATIONS COULD BEGIN TO MONITOR SATELLITE'S COURSE. HE DID NOT COMMIT HIMSELF TO THIS, EXPLAINING THAT A RELATIVELY LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WOULD HAVE TO BE INFORMED OF PURPOSE AND URGENCY.

6. REQUEST NIACT IMMEDIATE REPLY TO QUESTIONS RAISED BY GOJ IN PARAS 3-5 ABOVE.
MANSFIELD

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COSMOS 954, SATELLITES, CAT-B
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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